

Dacne picta Crotch in Hawaii, with Notes on Morphology and Mode of Entry from Japan (Coleoptera: Erotylidae)*

W. WAYNE BOYLE

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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This fungus beetle was first reported in Hawaii some eight years ago (Ford, 1945), at which time I was able to identify it only to genus. Subsequent comparison of Hawaiian and Japanese material has allowed positive identification of the species as *Dacne picta* Crotch. The beetle has been collected on two major islands of the Hawaiian chain: Oahu (Wai-anae Mts., August 1951, September 1953, August 1954, and April 1960, in soft bracket fungus, E. J. Ford, Jr.) and Maui (Makawao, March 1947, elevation 1600 ft., in fungi, K. L. Maehler).

Dacne picta has long been known in Japan, where it was described nearly a century ago (Crotch, 1873, p. 188). It probably found its way to Hawaii on dried wild mushrooms (*shiitake*), commonly imported from Japan by Japanese who are the main consumers. The major evidence for this mode of introduction is that another species of the same genus, *D. japonica* Crotch, was intercepted on imported shiitake from Japan by inspectors of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Honolulu. These specimens were identified for me by Dr. M. Chûjô of Kagawa University, who is an eminent authority on the Erotylidae. Professor Chûjô states (personal communication) that *D. japonica* is a pest of the edible shiitake, *Cortnellus shiitake* P. Henn., in Japan, presumably the species exported to Hawaii. Although the food fungi of *Dacne picta* have been identified in neither Japan nor Hawaii, it seems likely that *Cortnellus shiitake* is one of these, for erotyloid beetles are not host specific as a rule. Regardless of its host fungi, *D. picta* cannot be considered a pest in Hawaii, since little or no collecting of wild mushrooms is practiced. Moreover, Erotylidae are unknown as pests of cultivated mushrooms.

Redescription of *Dacne (Dacne) picta* Crotch (fig. 1): Color reddish yellow, disc of pronotum and elytra, except for an oblique yellow fascia on each, black. Shape elongate oval, slightly more than twice as long as wide; antennae about as long as interocular width of head, the clubs bilaterally asymmetrical. Punctures on body above moderately fine and dense, separated by one to two times their diameters, randomly arranged throughout, those of head somewhat smaller than those of pronotum and elytra; elytral striae absent but suggested by darker "watersoaked" lines across fasciae. This is the only species of *Dacne* known with a bicolored

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pronotum. It is also figured and described (in Japanese) by Chûjô (1936, pp. 123-124, fig. 71).

Size: Measurements, in millimeters, of the 11 undissected specimens at hand (seven from Hawaii and four from Japan), length, 2.74-3.54 (mean 3.20); maximum pronotal width, 1.22-1.52 (mean 1.39).

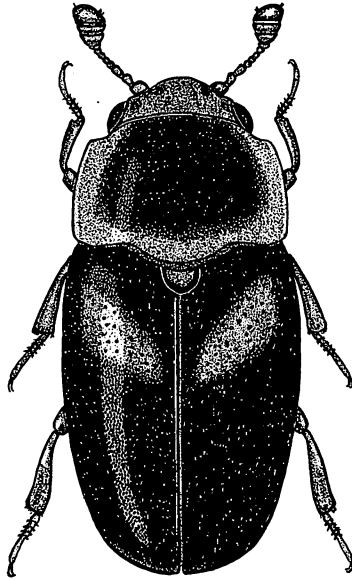


FIGURE 1.—*Dacne picta* Crotch (Waianae Mts., Oahu).

Genitalia: Male genitalia not distinctly different from those of *Dacne* (*D.*) *quadrimaculata* (Say) (Boyle, 1956, pp. 79-80, 82, figs. 17-18). Female genital tube also generally similar (*op. cit.*, pp. 80-82, figs. 30-32) except the proctigeral lobe is more acuminate, and lateral comb rows are entirely absent. The heavily sclerotized seminal receptacle is about three times as long as wide and faintly sigmoid or banana-shaped.

The absence of lateral comb rows in the female genital tube of *D. picta* suggests a phylogenetic affinity to the subgenus *Xenodacne*, limited to western North America, which also lacks these structures. Before important inferences can be drawn regarding such relationships within the genus *Dacne*, however, the genitalia of other species must be studied.

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